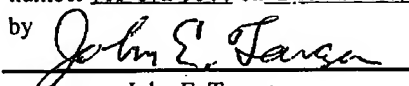


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DEC 08 2004

Docket Number: 2316-152

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| In re Application of      | ) | Examiner: Michael D. BURKHART   |
|                           | ) |   |
| Norman G. Anderson et al. | ) | Group Art Unit: 1636  |
|                           | ) |   |
| Serial No.: 10/050,847    | ) | I hereby certify that this correspondence   |
|                           | ) | is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO   |
| Filed: January 18, 2002   | ) | number 703-872-9306 on December 8, 2004   |
|                           | ) | by  |
| For: DETECTION AND        | ) | John E. Tarca   |
| CHARACTERIZATION OF       | ) | Reg. No. 33,638   |
| MICROORGANISMS            | ) |   |

**AMENDMENT UNDER 35 USC 1.111**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 8, 2004

Dear Sir:

In response to the Non-Final Rejection mailed September 8, 2004, wherein the Examiner set a three-month period for response, this response is timely filed. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.